

**Legislative Committee
Meeting Agenda**

12:00 NOON, November 19, 2010
Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Chairman



1. Welcome and Introductions: *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
2. Review of Minutes from the October 22, 2010 REAP LC Meeting: *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
Recommended Action: Approve or modify minutes as needed.
3. Kansas Affordable Airfares Update: *Mr. Joe Yager*
An update on the Kansas Affordable Airfares Program Audit will be provided.
4. T-Works Consultation Meeting Review: *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
The Committee will receive a report on T-Works consultation meeting in Hutchinson on October 28.
5. ULA Update: *Mr. Joe Yager*
Visioning has identified issues for the 2010 Unified Legislative Agenda. An update will be provided.
6. Communications Policy Request: *Mr. Les Depperschmidt*
Mr. Depperschmidt, AT&T, has requested that REAP discuss and possibly endorse increased investment and network infrastructure by requesting the State of Kansas to modernize its communications laws. A proposed endorsement letter is included and a presentation and materials will also be provided at the meeting.
Recommended Action: Take appropriate action.
7. 2010 REAP Policy Summit: *Mr. Joe Yager*
The Committee is asked to discuss and provide input into the agenda and content of the summit which is scheduled for December 2, 2010.
8. 2010 Work Plan Updates and Review: *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
The Committee is asked to review the 2010 Work Plan and an update will be provided.
9. Discussion of 2010 REAP Survey Results: *Mr. Joe Yager*
The Committee will review and discuss the results of the 2010 REAP survey.
10. Strategic Planning Process Review: *Ms. Misty Bruckner*
A review of the outcomes from the REAP Planning Retreat will be reviewed and discussed.
11. Identification of Work Plan for 2011: *Council Member Jeff Longwell*
The Committee will utilize the discussions on the 2010 work plan, survey results, and strategic planning roles and objectives to develop activities for the 2011 work plan.
Recommended Action: Forward a proposed work plan to the Executive Committee for consideration.
12. 2011 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule: *Mr. Joe Yager*
Recommended Action: Approve meeting schedule.
13. Other Business: *Members of the Committee*
14. Adjourn

Reminder: The Policy Summit is December 2, 2010 and the next Legislative Committee meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2010.

**Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes – October 22, 2010
Workforce Alliance Administrative Offices
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Chair**

II. Welcome and Introductions.

Council Member Jeff Longwell, City of Wichita, opened the meeting; members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

II. Review of Minutes from the September 24, 2010 REAP Legislative Committee Meeting

Council Member Longwell moved (Mayor Kristey Williams, City of Augusta) to approve the minutes with modifications to the attendance list. The motion passed unanimously.

III. REAP Legislative Committee Business

1. Kansas Affordable Airfares Update

Mr. Joe Yager, Chief Executive Officer for REAP, reported that the audit of the program by Legislative Post Audit is expected to begin in the coming weeks and staff will keep the Committee informed of this item. Mr. Yager also noted that the state has authorized \$4,785,000 for fiscal year 2011, however the \$125,000 addendum from fiscal year 2010 was authorized and taken from the 2011 funds, which explains the discrepancy in request for the full \$5 million. Questions were then asked by the committee regarding the funding process. The committee directed staff to follow up on this issue with the appropriate parties.

2. ULA Update

Mr. Yager reported that the Visioneering Wichita Unified Legislative Alliance met and reviewed what they have done in the past and what the plan to do in the future. The Alliance decided to maintain the same process as used in 2009 and process re-submittals as well as new submittals, which will be due Monday October 25th. REAP plans to resubmit Airfares. On November 8th, the Alliance will meet again to review new submittals and score issues.

3. Transportation Update

Council Member Jeff Longwell reported that staff compiled a report of the top tier listing of potential projects for the T-Works program. Mr. Yager lead the committee through the report illustrating the various projects that REAP member communities have identified as priorities. A discussion then ensued regarding the best way to approach the local consult meeting. The committee then requested that staff provide a brief summary of the October 16th T-Works Workshop. Mr. Yager concluded his report by encouraging members of the committee to attend the local consult meeting on October 28th.

4. Nonattainment Update

Dane Baxa, Executive Officer for the REAP WRC, reported that on October 5, 2010, Michael Jay, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Tom Gross, Kansas Department of Health and Environment; and Kansas Senator Carolyn McGinn, Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, addressed the Wichita City Council and Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners about the region's air quality. On October 31st, the EPA will sign the final rule for the new National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The new standard for ozone will likely be set at 60-70 parts per million, which will designate nonattainment status for the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). With this designation, the Wichita MSA must adhere to a State Implementation Plan (SIP), that will outline enforceable emission reduction strategies for implementation and require upgrading local emission inventory equipment. The State of Kansas

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will work with the Wichita MSA to develop an implementation plan. The Committee discussed potential involvement of REAP in these discussions.

5. Consensus Revenue Estimating Group

Mr. Yager noted that a report from Hawver's Capitol Flash is located on page 10 of the agenda. Dr. Nancy McCarthy Snyder, Director of the Hugo Wall School, will serve as a member of the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group.

6. 2010 REAP Policy Summit

Mr. Yager reported that a draft agenda is located on page 11. A new presentation has been added on exporting goods to assist legislators understand the importance of trade in South Central Kansas. A question was asked regarding the private sector's involvement in the summit, Mr. Yager responded that the Wichita Chamber is in charge of recruiting businesses.

7. 2011 Issue Identification

Mr. Yager reminded the committee to continue to think about issues of importance to the region in 2011. The REAP survey assisted in identifying many issues, the web format was very successful yielding 46 responses, more than double from last year.

8. City-to-City Recap

Mr. Yager reported that a two page summary of the city-to-city visit is available in the packet. There was a brief discussion on the importance of garnering more regional representation for future trips. Encouraging increased participation through sponsorships or other means was discussed

IV. Other Business

Mr. Yager reported that Les Depperschmidt, AT&T Kansas, has contacted Mayor Williams and requested to present new ideas on modernizing the state's communication plan. Mr. Yager noted that AT&T is not requesting a financial commitment from REAP but more so, support for possible future legislation. The committee agreed to allow Mr. Depperschmidt to present at the next LC meeting.

Mr. Yager informed the committee that REAP was not named a finalist for the HUD Sustainable Communities Grant, however, REAP was offered the opportunity to participate in a debriefing session to discuss the strengths and the weaknesses of our application. Staff will work to set this opportunity up with HUD staff.

V. Adjourn

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned.

**Legislative Committee
Meeting Minutes – October 22, 2010**

REAP Legislative Committee	
<i>Attendance</i>	
10/22/2010	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Jurisdiction</i>
Council Member Jeff Longwell, Chair	City of Wichita
Mayor Kristey Williams	City of Augusta
Ms. Stephanie Knebel	City of Derby
Commissioner Dave Unruh	Sedgwick County
Mr. Dale Goter	City of Wichita
<i>Guests and Staff</i>	
Ms. Kathy Sexton	City of Derby
Mr. Marv Duncan	Sedgwick County
Ms. Diane Longfellow	Visioneering Wichita
Mr. Keith Lawing	Workforce Alliance
Mr. Joe Yager	WSU
Mr. Dane Baxa	WSU
Ms. Nicole Bailey	WSU

To Whom It May Concern

This letter is to express the support of the Regional Economic Area Partnership (REAP) for updating Kansas communications policy. The way people communicate has changed drastically over the last few years resulting in incredible change and massive investment to meet customer needs. Unfortunately, Kansas laws and regulations have fallen behind this rapid pace of change.

Across the nation, communications companies are investing heavily to meet consumer demand for newer, faster and more feature-rich services. Investment in the communications industry has been one of the few bright spots on the American economy during this recession, leading all other business sectors with a combined capital expenditure of up to \$60 billion a year.

Like all businesses, communications companies look to invest their limited capital where the climate is most favorable for that investment. Many states across the nation are modernizing their communications laws and regulations to reflect the current highly competitive market, including the nearby states of Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Illinois and Indiana. The result has been increased investment, more jobs and services that consumers and business crave.

Efforts to modernize Kansas' communications laws should include; creating a marketplace in which all providers compete under the same rules, allowing competition to set prices, and ensuring regulatory proceedings do not hinder the introduction of new services or service packages.

To be frank, Kansas communications laws are outdated. As a result, Kansas is falling behind its peer states in terms of investment and network infrastructure. Kansas has already slipped far enough.

We encourage Kansas to modernize its communications laws. The millions of dollars invested by communications companies will multiply throughout the Kansas economy, creating jobs, revenue to the state and local tax base, and most importantly, connecting consumers and business in new and innovative ways.

Sincerely,



ANDOVER, ARKANSAS CITY, AUGUSTA, BEL AIRE, BENTLEY, BENTON, BUTLER COUNTY, CHENEY, CLEARWATER, COLWICH, CONWAY SPRINGS, DERBY, EL DORADO, GARDEN PLAIN, GODDARD, HALSTEAD, HARVEY COUNTY, HAYSVILLE, HESSTON, HUTCHINSON, KECHI, KINGMAN COUNTY, MAIZE, MCPHERSON COUNTY, MOUNT HOPE, MULVANE, NEWTON, PARK CITY, RENO COUNTY, ROSE HILL, SEDGWICK, SEDGWICK COUNTY, SUMNER COUNTY, VALLEY CENTER, WELLINGTON, WICHITA, WINFIELD

South-Central Kansas Legislative Policy Summit
Courtyard Marriott Wichita at Old Town
820 E 2nd St N, Wichita
Thursday, December 2nd

- 12:00 Noon **Lunch**
- 12:20 PM **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**
*South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation Chair or Vice-Chair
Mayor Kristey Williams, REAP Chairman*
- 12:30 PM **Keynote Address**
Lt. Governor-Elect Dr. Jeff Colyer (Invited)
- 1:15 PM **Aviation Outlook: The Envy of the World**
Mr. Jim Walters, Cessna
- 1:40 PM **The New World of Work: Education and Training Working Together**
Dr. Jackie Vietti, Butler County Community College
- 2:00 PM **Affordable Airfares: An Investment in Kansas**
Mayor Kristey Williams and Mr. Jason Watkins
- 2:15 PM **Understanding our Economy: State Budget Outlook Facing the New Governor**
Mr. Alan Conroy, Kansas Legislative Research
- 2:45 PM **Perspective on Trade in South Central Kansas**
Ms. Karyn Page, Kansas World Trade Center
- 3:00 PM **Break**
- 3:10 PM **Our Transitioning Economy: Manufacturing of the Future Panel**
*Mr. Dave Kerr (or someone with connection to Siemens), Dr. David McDonald
(or someone with NIAR/CIBOR connection), Mr. Caleb Asher (KDOC)*
- 3:55 PM **Perspective on Water Issues**
Mr. Earl Lewis, Assistant Director Kansas Water Office
- 4:15 AM **Healthcare in Kansas: Healthcare Industry Panel**
*KU Med Center, Dental School, Via Christi rep
Dr. David Wilson, Dr. Dexter Woods, Mr. Randy Peterson*
- 4:55 PM **Closing Remarks**
- 5:00 PM **Adjourn/Reception**



ANDOVER, ARKANSAS CITY, AUGUSTA, BEL AIRE, BENTLEY, BENTON, BUTLER COUNTY, CHENEY, CLEARWATER, COLWICH, CONWAY SPRINGS, DERBY, EL DORADO, GARDEN PLAIN, GODDARD, HALSTEAD, HARVEY COUNTY, HAYSVILLE, HESSTON, HUTCHINSON, KECHI, KINGMAN COUNTY, MAIZE, MCPHERSON COUNTY, MOUNT HOPE, MULVANE, NEWTON, PARK CITY, RENO COUNTY, ROSE HILL, SEDGWICK, SEDGWICK COUNTY, SUMNER COUNTY, VALLEY CENTER, WELLINGTON, WICHITA, WINFIELD

REAP Legislative Committee 2010 Work Plan

Adopted December 14, 2009

Legislative Priorities

- Maintain Kansas Affordable Airfares Program to assure more flight options, more competition for air travel, and affordable airfares for Kansas.
- Advance legislative action to establish the next phase of a comprehensive transportation plan for Kansas.
- Advance legislative and administrative action to secure state financial participation in:
 - business-driven technical education and training that supports the regional economy.
 - the Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project to preserve the aquifer for agricultural, industrial, and municipal use that is essential to the regional economy.
 - aviation research at the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University.
 - orthopedic research at a Center of Excellence on Composites Research and Development at Wichita State University.
 - graduate medical education program at the Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education.
- Support amicable resolution to the territorial disputes between rural water districts and municipalities.
- Support federal reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to include maintaining local control through private sector and employer driven Local Workforce Investment Boards.

Legislative Committee Work

- Monitor progress on legislative priorities for 2010 and give guidance to legislative liaison as issues arise.
- Monitor legislative action related to annexation for any threats to economic development in the region.
- Monitor legislative action that may limit the use of eminent domain for local economic development.
- Develop and sponsor regional legislative policy summit.
- Develop and implement ongoing communication procedures between REAP and area legislators.
- Identify and make REAP members aware of legislative issues of significance to South Central Kansas and promote engagement.
- Recommend legislative priorities to REAP for the 2011 legislative session.

REAP 2010 Survey Results

1. Please assign the level of importance for each ongoing REAP commitment.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Deserves More Attention	About Right	Deserves Less Attention
Chief Elected Officials Board (CEOB) duties under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998: The REAP EDC serves as the CEOB in Local Area IV and collaborates with the WA to oversee the governance and implementation of regional workforce development.	5 12%	32 78%	4 10%
Kansas Affordable Airfares Program Administration: REAP has been designated as the administrator of KAAP for the State of Kansas. This work item would have REAP continue administration of the program and work to secure on-going financial support.	15 37%	24 59%	2 5%
Topeka-Based Representation: Since 2000, REAP has contracted a legislative liaison during each legislative session. This work item would continue contracting for a legislative liaison for REAP and allow for potential inclusion of additional items.	8 20%	31 76%	2 5%
Regional Legislative Policy Summit: This work item would have REAP continue to partner in holding a legislative summit in 2011 that emphasizes education on regional issues and to promote the region.	12 29%	27 66%	2 5%
Regional Water Conference: The WRC has annually sponsored a regional conference to promote education and networking opportunities on water issues. This work item would have REAP, through the WRC, continuing to provide this regional opportunity.	14 34%	21 51%	6 15%
Strategic Analysis of Regional Economy: In 2010 REAP updated a comparative analysis of the regional economy to identify the strengths and weaknesses. This work plan item would call for the conclusion of the analysis and a regional summit.	16 39%	21 51%	4 10%
Regional Memberships and Partnerships: REAP staff is involved in several ongoing activities that take limited investment of financial and/or time commitments. Memberships on GWEDC and participation with WAMPO are examples of these limited commitments.	6 15%	31 76%	4 10%

2. The following are specific issues for consideration, including possible legislative priorities for REAP to address in 2011. Please assign the level of importance you feel each item merits in terms of REAP support in the upcoming year.

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Highest Priority	High Priority	Low Priority	Lowest Priority
Support federal reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to include maintaining local control through employer led Local Workforce Investment Boards, and funding allocations to meet the growing need for skilled workers in South Central Kansas	9 24%	25 66%	4 11%	0 0%
Develop ongoing communication between REAP and the Kansas Federal Delegation.	5 13%	29 76%	4 11%	0 0%
Support continued funding for research and development on composites through the Kansas Bioscience Authority under the Economic Growth Act.	16 42%	16 42%	6 16%	0 0%
Identify potential funding for economic development initiatives in the region, including a regional sales tax, or alignment of sales tax in multiple jurisdictions.	6 16%	22 58%	9 24%	1 3%
Identify potential for forming a regional coalition to negotiate health care insurance for local governments, similar to that of the State's private colleges.	8 21%	12 32%	14 37%	4 11%
Advance legislative and administrative action to secure state participation in funding of technical education in the region.	9 24%	22 58%	5 13%	2 5%
Support making the Arkansas River and Little Arkansas River more accessible for recreation.	1 3%	9 24%	17 45%	11 29%
Support continued state financial assistance to maintain and expand low cost commercial air service from Mid-Continent Airport.	22 58%	15 39%	1 3%	0 0%
Identify and advise state elected officials to see that the State Water Plan is adequately funded.	14 37%	18 47%	6 16%	0 0%

3. The following are specific issues for consideration, including possible legislative priorities for REAP to address in 2011. Please assign the level of importance you feel each item merits in terms of REAP support in the upcoming year. (Continued)

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.

	Highest Priority	High Priority	Low Priority	Lowest Priority
Support continued state financial participation in the Equus Beds Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) Project to ensure quantity and quality of water resources for the future.	7 18%	20 53%	9 24%	2 5%
Advance legislative and administrative action to secure state participation in funding of travel and tourism efforts in the REAP region.	5 13%	10 26%	21 55%	2 5%

Identify potential funding and participation by REAP in regional marketing through GWEDC.	3 8%	15 39%	13 34%	7 18%
Identify potential funding and participation by REAP in convening the regional economic development partners.	9 24%	19 50%	7 18%	3 8%
Address initiatives identified in the Sustainable Communities grant application.	3 8%	23 61%	9 24%	3 8%
Address regional air quality initiatives, particularly those associated with Ozone nonattainment, as this has a large economic impact to the regional economy.	10 26%	17 45%	11 29%	0 0%
Support continuation of state investments in medical education through University of Kansas in Wichita, as well as regional medical facilities.	5 13%	22 58%	10 26%	1 3%
Address the regulations and best management practices associated with storm water.	3 8%	15 39%	17 45%	3 8%
Further develop the Water Resource Planner to identify more natural resources available in the REAP region.	5 13%	20 53%	11 29%	2 5%
Identify grant opportunities affecting regional planning and development.	10 26%	24 63%	2 5%	2 5%

4. The following are specific issues for consideration, including possible legislative priorities for REAP to address in 2011. Please assign the level of importance you feel each item merits in terms of REAP support in the coming year. (Continued)

Top number is the count of respondents selecting the option. Bottom % is percent of the total respondents selecting the option.	Highest Priority	High Priority	Low Priority	Lowest Priority
Support continuation of state investments in aviation research at the National Institute for Aviation Research.	17 46%	15 41%	5 14%	0 0%
Support a stronger system of technical training and education in Kansas including enhanced funding support, better alignment and articulation of education and training programs, and transition programs to better serve adult learners.	14 38%	15 41%	8 22%	0 0%
Support increased use of pre-release skills training programs to improve the reintegration of ex-offenders through partnerships with the Kansas Department of Corrections and the Local Workforce Investment Boards in Kansas.	2 5%	13 35%	18 49%	4 11%
Creation of a stand-alone transportation committee, similar to other REAP committees that works with KDOT, WAMPO, and other partners to work on regional transportation issues.	4 11%	15 41%	15 41%	3 8%
Endorse enhanced passenger rail service and intercity passenger rail in Kansas.	5 14%	18 49%	10 27%	4 11%
Support the inclusion of appropriations for passenger rail in T-Works, the State Comprehensive Transportation Plan.	6 16%	13 35%	15 41%	3 8%
Endorse rail infrastructure investment in both the north/south corridor from Kansas City to Fort Worth through Newton and Wichita, as well as the South West Chief corridor.	4 11%	19 51%	12 32%	2 5%

5. What REAP functions currently provide the most value to your community? - Responses

1	Economic Development: Information, inclusion, and developing regional strategies.
2	Legislative: Monitoring, information, inclusion, communication, focus, representation, unified voice, and education.
3	Workforce: role of WA and development efforts and connection to economic development.
4	Affordable airfares
5	Water: Information, inclusion, education on regional issues, Water Conference, and data.
6	Transportation: information and education on issues or projects.
7	Meeting to share ideas, gathering information about the area
8	Building on the concept, all in this together
9	Connected to Visioneering
10	Connected to various state agencies
11	keeping community leaders informed as to what is going on and possible solutions / guidance towards issues.
12	Sharing information and the research behind that information.
13	I think REAP has done a good job of supporting the interests of our region, but has primarily focused on what is best for Wichita. The primary benefit of REAP thus far, for our community, has been just keeping us in the loop and understanding regional issues. The REAP Water Conference has also been a benefit.
14	Collaboration b/w the members.
15	Regional communication/partnerships.
16	Regional perspective and collaboration.
17	Promotion of our region at the State level (keeping jobs here, airfares low, etc). Also, sharing of information (i.e. water rates, transportation info, etc)
18	the willingness to expand the REAP agenda to be supportive of Bio Science / Cibor / expanding medical education in the area
19	Convening of forums for discussion among professional managers and elected officials on important issues of regional concern.

6. What challenges are facing REAP in enhancing the regional economy? - Responses

1	Listening to and involving the smaller communities. Smaller communities do not seem to find the benefit of REAP on a more level ground, while they understand that overall as a region the benefit is greater. That has been hard to do for REAP.
2	1) The retention of jobs in the aviation sector; 2) Providing the necessary incentives to retain existing industries and recruit new targeted industries to the region; and 3) Developing a clear definition of the region and the unique opportunities and strengths of the region that does not exist in other regions of the state. Is the region the 7 county area now identified by the memberships or is it a larger or smaller region. From the standpoint of simplicity, I believe the region with the most homogeneous characteristics is a smaller rather than a larger region. I believe the counties of Reno, Harvey, Butler and Sedgwick are a common region. Adding counties of Sumner, Cowley, Kingman and McPherson dilutes the true strength of the region. From the standpoint of economic development, I would restrict the regional partners to those counties who have many similarities and can best be identified as the center of oil, aviation and to some extent the agriculture industry.
3	Lack of productive committee meetings. Joe talks too much. Situations are not provided to build relationships; Do professional managers need to be more involved?

4	REAP needs to continue to be the "non-political" organization that promotes regional fiscal health and growth.
5	1) The concept of working together to "build", grow the region; 2) Funding issues; Jobs, work, new companies; 3) Keeping the companies we have.
6	national economy
7	1) Competition from all over; 2) Developing needed skills among the labor force.
8	Understanding everyone's needs and representing them. Getting elected officials to participate in the process.
9	The challenge is knowing where to invest our time and resources to have the greatest effect for the entire region. Enhancing the regional economy may require a significant investment. Are all REAP members willing to make an investment in something that may or may not directly affect them.
10	1) Limited Resources; 2) Higher taxes--both sales and Prop. in Ks. compared to other states, or regions; 3) Offering a high tech ind. park. Affordable land--shovel ready; 4) Water quality; 5) Transportation--improving highway infrastructure.
11	Securing genuine regional cooperation to advance economic development.
12	How to keep the region competitive in a global economy.
13	1) Job growth; 2) Silo mentalities of some economic development efforts; 3) Legislative budget cuts; 4) Work force development
14	Retaining continuity of leadership and sincere involvement by all the major partners
15	Access to larger water sources and hard dollars to provide as incentives to new and existing businesses
16	Finding common ground, common priorities and working towards those. Identification, really, of those priorities... especially in difficult economic times.
17	Perception: GWEDC is not an organization that has earned trust or respect? So although they get mentioned at REAP meetings as economic development... body language indicates they are somewhat irrelevant to many of the REAP counties and cities. Please understand though, it is in everyone's best interest that GWEDC thrive, excel, succeed and get the world to pay attention. We in the Wichita area do not consistently exhibit behavior helpful to the region. The economy is changing, global connectivity is tightening. Let's make sure we have the economic development puzzle pieces set in a way that supports the new environment we must thrive within.
18	Getting the various EDC organizations to co-operate.
19	1) Clarity of REAP's role vis a vie GWEDC and other entities; 2) Ability to identify important issues early enough so they can be properly researched and then discussed by REAP members before presentation to the Board for determination of a position or action; and 3) Professionally staffing and branding REAP in such a way as to gain stature and credibility when discussing issues facing the regional economy.
20	Funding.
21	The aircraft industry will probably not rebound to the production rates of several years ago. We need to help maintain the industry in our area, but we need to recognize the fact we need to diversify into..... Alternative energy; production of and equipment to produce energy. Composit manufacturing not aircraft related; Transportation; Water.

7. What are the most important issues facing our region in the next 3-5 years? - Responses

1	1) Transportation issues; 2) Labor issues; 3) Airfares
2	1) Retaining the core workforce of aviation workers; 2) Developing a true identification and branding of the region for economic development marketing in order to be competitive and at the top as the place to start or expand your business; and 3) Taxation issues that negatively effect business recruitment or expansion.
3	There is a growing emphasis on regional approaches to solving problems. REAP should embrace the role of information gatherer and conveyer. In some instances, step up and facilitate recommendations.
4	Developing new industries to diversify our manufacturing base. Keep regional workers trained and available for all types of jobs. Push more alliances with educational facilities of all kinds.
5	1) improving roads, rail, airport; 2) continue working together; 3) jobs, training, legislative issue probably less state funding at the local level
6	1) WATER; 2) ENERGY; 3) NEGATIVE GROWTH; 4) JOBS
7	1) Creating and keeping good paying jobs; 2) Transportation within the region; 3) Complying with stronger environmental regulations.
8	1) Economy; 2) Job creation; and 3) Tax Revenues.
9	1) Keeping competitive so the region is attractive to new manufacturing; 2) Building the infrastructure that will support major growth.
10	1) Getting the major employers to survive the recession and keep jobs in this region; 2) Keeping water affordable and plentiful; 3) Addressing non-point source pollution in our lakes, rivers and streams.
11	1) Diversification of the Mnfc./Industry base; 2) Offer safe enviroment--enhance quality of life.
12	Competing with other regional areas that have more financial resources to attract industry.
13	Growing the economy and creating jobs that generate adequate household income.
14	1) Job Availability; 2) Work Force development; 3) Competing on global economy basis; 4) Supporting Bio-Science & Technology development.
15	1) dependence on aircraft industry for jobs; 2) need to diversify employers/industries
16	JOBS, JOBS, JOBS, WATER - WATER - WATER
17	Fair fares may have to be readdressed given Southwest acquiring Air Tran. We must have affordable fares; We have exciting, perhaps transformative, economic development opportunities in composites, bioscience and alternative energies, and REAP must act in concert with the principals in those industries to champion this transformation.
18	Job retention!!!!
19	Growing our economy and sustaining or replacing aviation jobs.
20	We need to determine what we will be the absolute best at. How will that understanding inform all of the decisions we make in the region? Once this is understood we will be better suited to say no to worthy causes that distract the region from our core value(s). Let's not spend valuable time trying to "fix things." Focus on the future, our strengths, our core value(s) and make sure we get the system, staff, structure in place to unleash the region.
21	Creating an economic development environment to attract industries into the region.
22	1) Tax policy; 2) Diversification of the economy; 3) Regional transit and transportation; 4) Handling storm water & water quality issues
23	1) Business Environment; and 2) Economic Development.
24	1) Cost of health care; 2) Clean air and water; 3) Jobs creation.

REAP Retreat and Strategic Planning Notes November 1, 2010

Process

With changes in REAP leadership, current and anticipated requests from other organizations, and the economic environment, a strategic planning process was determined to be the best process to reinforce the value of the REAP organization, strengthen commitment to the REAP mission and set forth a framework for the direction of the REAP organization.

In coordination with the REAP strategic planning process, staff conducted individual interviews with key partners and stakeholders (GWEDC, SCKEDD, WA, WAMPO, WSU, Regional ED Partners group, etc.) to identify critical issues for the REAP organization. In addition, at the beginning of October, staff conducted strategic planning focus groups with former REAP leaders and city and county managers. The meetings and interviews were to help identify REAP's strengths, determine current and future challenges, and help define its role and purpose for the region. In addition, staff utilized the annual survey to collect data from the membership at large on current operations. REAP then held a strategic planning session on Monday, November 1, 2010 at the Sedgwick County Extension Office. This process was designed to engage REAP members and stakeholders in discussion on the future direction and sustainability of REAP over the next three to five years. All documents and materials from the retreat are available on the [REAP website](#).

The retreat included **Mayor Laura McConwell** (Mission) who is a current Board Member of the Mid America Regional Council (MARC) in Kansas City who focused on the importance of jurisdictions working together across traditional boundaries. There was also a panel response that allowed participants to hear perspectives from business, workforce development, and local government. The panel included **Mr. Steve Martens** (The Martens Companies), **Mr. Keith Lawing** (Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas), and former REAP Chair **Mr. John Waltner** (Harvey County). Participants also reviewed a report on a comparative analysis of other regional organizations and held group discussions of issues that REAP may face in the next 3-5 years. The retreat was facilitated by **Ms. Misty Bruckner** of the Hugo Wall School, Wichita State University.

Proposed Roles and Strategies

The following roles were developed through the input of the stakeholder interviews, survey results, and focus groups. The strategies beneath each role were developed by the participants of the retreat who were asked to also vote on each strategy which is reflected by the order and vote tally.

- 1) Providing a **regional voice** to support fundamental economic development.
 - a) Creating sustainable infrastructure (ie water, transport, economic development) - 30 votes
 - b) Regional branding process about what REAP is – 27 votes
 - c) System and structures in place to take REAP to the next level (processes, staff, committees, etc.) – 24 votes
 - d) Reach out to private sector stakeholders – 18 votes
 - e) Build trust by informing all partners on the value of economic development – 17 votes
 - f) Open up forum to other organizations – 7 votes
 - g) Oversight organization for economic development in REAP region...regional funding effort – 5 votes
 - h) Commitment from all policy makers – 3 votes
 - i) Connecting with partners and stakeholders, groups that focus on sustainable development – 1 vote

- 2) **Educating stakeholders** on topics of economic interest to our region.
 - a) Create a communication/education plan to connect with: own membership, legislative delegation, grassroots citizens, local chambers, media, congressional offices – 32 votes
 - b) REAP staff report to communities – 27 votes
 - c) Outreach to communities who were formerly active in REAP plus regular communication with current members – 22 votes
 - d) Clarify mission on economic development vs. economic partnerships – 21 votes
 - e) Training sessions for new elected officials – 15 votes
 - f) Development of reciprocal appreciation between all partners/communities – 5 votes
 - g) Educating stakeholders on the importance of economic development – 4 votes

- 3) **Guiding state and national policy** issues that impact economic development of our region.
 - a) Engage local leadership to represent the region in Topeka, not only a lobbyist – 43 votes
 - b) Strategies to look at more funding for our region...fair share from Topeka – 34 votes
 - c) Coordinate a common regional economic development agenda – 26 votes
 - d) Determine a proactive way to identify policy issues for specific industries – 20 votes
 - e) Utilize and leverage opportunities to share REAP issues at the federal level...ie national league of cities event – 6 votes
 - f) Ongoing strategy for engagement of state and national....more than just a policy summit – 5 votes
 - g) Send quarterly updates to legislators – 4 votes
 - h) Strategies on engaging in federal policies that affect us locally – no votes

- 4) **Supporting regional planning efforts** in issues impacting the economic environment.
 - a) Educate and engage citizens on the benefits of sustainable planning efforts – 27 votes
 - b) Engage professional staff in multiple jurisdictions in collaborative planning – 25 votes
 - c) MAPD still an appropriate structure...what is REAP's role? – 17 votes
 - d) Convening workgroups on specific planning efforts – 17 votes
 - e) Capitalize on other regional planning efforts - 15 votes
 - f) Determine how REAP can become an important player in transportation (MAPD), evaluate is
 - g) Involve REAP in WAMPO efforts - 12 votes
 - h) Developing a process to prioritize economic development wants and needs – 7 votes
 - i) Develop an understanding that regionalism perspectives differ – no votes

- 5) Being **proactive in identifying emerging issues** and encouraging dialogue.
 - a) Understand that regional planning is important and we are not doing it – 36 votes
 - b) Agenda process that encourages active participation and issue identification – 34 votes
 - c) Formalize roles of elected members/professional staff....create a balance – 34 votes
 - d) Create a strategy that determines which issues are regional vs. city to city – 20 votes
 - e) Expand communication to outreach groups – 11 votes

Expectations Moving Forward

The retreat provided good input into the process, including some roles and strategies for REAP to consider. These will be used in combination with information from the annual surveys during the upcoming Committee meetings to develop work plans or action steps for 2011. The work of the Committees will then be forwarded to the REAP Executive Committee and a draft product will be presented at the December 13 REAP meeting for formal adoption.

Agenda Item 12

2011 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule

2011 Legislative Committee Meeting Schedule

In 2010, the Legislative Committee scheduled monthly meetings for the fourth Friday of each month.

For 2011 it is advised that the meetings continue to be working lunches from Noon to 1:30 and be held at the Workforce Alliance of South Central Kansas Administrative Offices, 150 N. Main, Wichita, unless otherwise indicated.

Staff recommends continuation of meetings on the 4th Friday of each month unless there is a conflict.

Meetings are not held if there is no business before the committee.

4th Friday Schedule

January 28

February 25

March 25

April 29 (5th Friday – KACM in Lawrence 21-22)

May 27

June 24

July 22

August 26

September 23

October 21 (3rd Friday, REAP Meeting scheduled for November 7)

November 19 (3rd Friday – Thanksgiving)

December 17 (3rd Friday – Christmas)

Potential Date for 2011 Legislative Policy Summit

Thursday, December 8, 2011

Recommended Action: Approve meeting schedule for 2011.